

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks, which place the application into condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5 are independent and are hereby amended in this response. Claims 3 and 7 have been cancelled.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,434,929 to Beernink et al.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“An input method using an input apparatus ...
instructing selection of said instructed selection item when
the finger or the touch pen is released from said sensor unit,
wherein said selection display disappears when the finger or the
touch pen is moved from said sensor unit to said display screen
side”

As understood by Applicants, Beernink relates to a method for setting character style preferences on a handheld device. A plurality of variant character styles are displayed for a selected character with each character style representing a distinct way of writing the selected character that is recognized by the system recognizer. Inputs are then received, which indicate

and set the probability that an input character style will be in a form similar to the selected character style. Other inputs include the selection of a different character for display, selection of a variant character style from the displayed area, selection of a reset command, and selection of a probability weight for a selected variant. The apparatus includes the mechanisms for activating a character style preference editor and for drawing a plurality of variant character styles.

Applicants respectfully submit that Beernink does not teach or suggest the above discussed feature of claim 1. Specifically, Beernink does not disclose or suggest an input method using an input apparatus comprising instructing selection of said instructed selection item when the finger or the touch pen is released from said sensor unit, wherein said selection display disappears when the finger or the touch pen is moved from said sensor unit to said display screen side, as recited in claim 1.

The relied upon portions of Beernink merely disclose that the character style preference area includes a close box 94 that allows a user to quit a session of setting preferences by simply selecting, i.e., "tapping", on the close box 94. Applicants submit that there is no need to select or "tap" a close box in the instant invention. The selection display disappears automatically when the finger or the touch pen is moved from the sensor unit to the display screen side, according to the instant invention.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over the relied upon portions of the cited references, and therefore should be allowed. Since claim 5 is similar in scope to claim 1, it is allowable therewith.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are dependent from either claim 1 or claim 5 discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

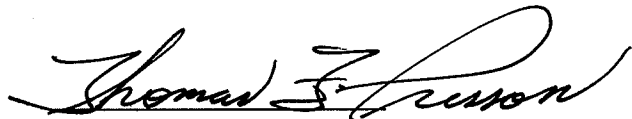
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and an early and favorable consideration thereof with an issue of Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:



Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
Ph: (212) 588-0800